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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 143

MONTHLY REPORT

November, 1925.

NOVEMBER 1925

December 7, 1925.

Dear Sir:

The following is my report on conditions in the Yellowstone National Park, and on the operation of the Park, for the month of November, 1925:

I. GENERAL CONDITIONS

Weather

The month was nearly normal in temperature, but with about 30% less precipitation than for the average November.

TEMPERATURE: Monthly mean, 28.8° , is 0.5° below normal. The first half of the month was somewhat colder than normal, while the latter half was generally slightly warmer than normal. No unusual temperature extremes occurred, 46° on the 1st being the highest and 8° on the 7th the lowest.

PRECIPITATION: Total, 0.94 inch, is 0.50 inch below normal. Light snow was of frequent occurrence during the first 17 days, while mostly fair weather prevailed thereafter.

SNOWFALL: Total 6.8 inches; normal 11.0 inches. The depth on the ground ranged from the greatest of 5.4 inches on the 3rd to 3.0 inches on the 30th.

WIND: Average hourly velocity was 7.8 miles; normal 8.0 miles. The maximum velocity was 34 miles per hour from the southwest on the 25th.

SUNSHINE: Percentage of possible 47; normal 48. Number of days clear, 5, partly cloudy 13, cloudy 12.

Travel

All gateways except the north were closed to travel throughout the month and visitors via the North Entrance have not been registered as the rangers at this point have been assigned to wild animal patrols; however, travel has been unrestricted between Gardiner and Mammoth Hot Springs and a total of 38 persons are known to have visited park headquarters during the past thirty days. The pre-season travel to November 1st was 457; the total to date is 495, as compared with 595 on November 30th last year and 1005 at the close of November 1923.

Snow Depths

Snow depths throughout the park with comparative figures for 1924 are indicated as follows:

	<u>1924</u> <u>Inches</u>	<u>1925</u> <u>Inches</u>
Crevice Station	14	4
Canyon Station	20	15
Gallatin Station	--	10
Hellroaring Station	10	3
Lake Station	13	12
Mammoth	6.5	3½
Riverside Station	12	6½
Snake River Station	17	19
Sylvan Pass Station	6	16
Cooke City Station	13	16
Tower Falls Station	6	4
Upper Slough Creek Station	12	10

The greatest snow depth thus far reported is 42 inches on the Slough Creek-Buffalo Divide. The lowest temperature reported this season to date was 14 below zero at Gallatin Station; it occurred late in October. The prevailing night temperatures on the higher elevations range from +10 to minus 5 degrees Fahrenheit. The prevailing day temperatures have been generally moderate throughout the park.

III: ADMINISTRATION OF THE PARK

Inspections of the Park

On November 5 Mr. Albright was at Old Faithful and West Yellowstone inspecting ranger stations and the conditions of buildings and property.

On November 14 he was inspecting ranches north of the park which eastern people are considering buying for use in protecting Yellowstone Park animals, particularly elk and antelope in the winter. This inspection was made by automobile, saddle horse and afoot, and covered a wide area of country. On November 17 he made a trip to Livingston, Mont., on official business and while there with funds made available by eastern friends of the park arranged for the purchase of the 1,000 acre Hoppe Ranch. Details of this purchase have been submitted in a separate report.

On November 21st with the Chief Ranger he inspected the Tower Falls ranger district and the Buffalo Ranch.

Personnel

Employees:

On November 1st there were 65 appointed employees on the payrolls and on November 30th there were 63.

Leaves of Absence:

Erl Allen, Electrician, Nov. 16-20, 5 days.
Earl S. Bowman, Park Ranger, Nov. 26, 1 day.
Charles D. Dale, Chief Electrician, Nov. 18-20(n), 2-1/2 days.
Charles D. Dale, Chief Electrician, Nov. 13(n)-14, 1-1/2 days.
William I. Davis, Assistant Engineer, Nov. 9, 1 day.
Joseph Douglas, Assistant Chief Park Ranger, Nov. 18-20, 2 days.
James H. Dupuis, Park Ranger, Nov. 25-28, 3 days.
Charles W. Enochs, Foreman, Nov. 9-10, 2 days.
Charles W. Enochs, Foreman, Nov. 16-30, 15 days. (SICK)
A. C. D. Hemmen, Laborer, Nov. 21(n), 1/2 day.
Warren Hutchings, Asst. Buffalo Keeper, Nov. 12-14, 3 days.
Arthur Jacobson, Park Ranger, Nov. 16-19, 4 days.
S. W. MacGibbon, Assistant Buffalo Keeper, Nov. 21-30, 10 days. (SICK)
William J. O'Loughlin, Laborer, Nov. 11-12, 2 days.
William J. O'Loughlin, Laborer, Nov. 23-27, 4 days. (SICK)
Robert R. Robinson, Auto Mechanic, Nov. 27, 1 day.
Robert R. Robinson, Auto Mechanic, Nov. 2, 1 day.
Edmund J. Sawyer, Park Naturalist, Nov. 1-11, 9 days.
Bert L. Stinnett, Master Mechanic, Nov. 28, 1 day.
Julia S. Stockett, Clerk, Nov. 14-18, 3-1/2 days.
Birt Vink, Blacksmith, Nov. 27-28, 2 days.
Deate F. White, Foreman, Nov. 9-10, 2 days.
William Wiggins, Master Plumber, Nov. 25(n)-28(n), 2 days.
Sam. T. Woodring, Chief Ranger, Nov. 2-5, 4 days.

Appointments and Promotions:

Oscar B. Eggen, Chief Timekeeper, \$1680 p.a., less \$180 p.a. for qrs., WAE, entered on duty Nov. 17, 1925.
Walter P. Martindale, Park Ranger, \$1680 p.a., less \$180 p.a. for qrs., WAE, entered on duty Nov. 17, 1925.

Separations:

Thelma M. Miller, Stenog. & Typist, \$1500 qrs., WAE, services terminated close Nov. 6, 1925.
Chester A. Lindsley, designation as Asst. Supt. terminated close of Nov. 10.
Nathan Bartlett, Park Ranger, \$1440 p.a. qrs., WAE, close November 30, 1925.

Office Force Activities

During the month of November 882 pieces of official mail were received and 1224 were sent out.

Finances

Costs of Operation, etc.: The cost of operating the park for the month of November, 1925, will be shown in the Monthly Cost Accounting Report which will go forward as soon as prepared.

<u>Revenues:</u>	<u>Sale of Electricity</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>
Check No. 503, dated Nov. 11, 1925, drawn by H. W. Child on National Bank of Montana, Helena, Mont., to Leroy Hill, amount.....	110.61	
Check No. 884, dated Nov. 9, 1925, drawn by H. W. Child on National Bank of Montana, Helena, Mont., to Leroy Hill, amount.....	296.48	
Check No. 2162, dated Nov. 6, 1925, drawn by Vernon Goodwin on National Bank of Montana, Helena, Mont., to Leroy Hill, amount.....	7.15	
Check No. 1024, dated Nov. 7, 1925, drawn by Geo. Whittaker on National Park Bank, to Leroy Hill, amount.....	4.90	
Check No. 633, dated Nov. 7, 1925, drawn by J. E. Haynes on First National Bank of St. Paul, to Leroy Hill, amount.....		4.30
	419.14	4.30

	<u>Sale of Electricity</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>
Carried Forward.....	\$ 419.14	4.30
Check No. 537, dated Nov. 16, 1925, drawn by W. M. Nichols on National Bank of Montana, Helena, Mont., to Leroy Hill, amount.....	\$ 104.17	
Check No. 971, dated Nov. 16, 1925, drawn by W. M. Nichols on National Bank of Montana, Helena, Mont., to Leroy Hill, amount.....	24.03	
Check No. 640, dated Nov. 21, 1925, drawn by J. E. Haynes on First National Bank of St. Paul, to Leroy Hill, amount.....	6.45	
Check dated Nov. 9, 1925, to Horace M. Albright, amount..... (Victor Himsl)		\$150.
	<u>\$ 553.79</u>	<u>\$154.30</u>

Plans, Maps and Surveys

No field work was done during the month; the survey party was disbanded in October. The two permanent engineers with one assistant worked up the notes and quantities of the surveys and performed general office duties. The temporary assistant engineer was laid off Nov. 30th.

Commissary & Transportation Dept.

The Commissary employees were engaged in cleaning all buildings and grounds at headquarters, checking and repairing equipment, etc.

The Transportation Department hauled coal, hay and oats from Gardiner to storehouse at Mammoth, hauled T.E.T. from Gardiner to Norris Junction, hauled camp wood to Mammoth Auto Camp, and moved balance of road camps to Mammoth.

III. MAINTENANCE OF IMPROVEMENTS AND FACILITIES

Grounds

The Foreman of Grounds and Stables reports general freighting work about headquarters, upkeep of grounds and care of stables by his department.

Roads, Trails & Bridges

No road maintenance work was done during the month.

Electrical & Telephone Systems

The following was done by the Chief Electrician and his assistants during the month:

Built new power line to Mr. Hill's quarters, 2 wires, 1/4 mile.
Built new power line from Guard House to Garage, 6 wires, 1/8 mile.
Changed 1 transformer.

Took down 2 #14 bare iron wires from Garage to Camp Company, 1/4 mile, and strung 2 #14 covered weatherproof wires instead, for fire alarm circuit.

Operation of Power Plant: The Power Plant was operated in the usual manner. It was run constantly with the results shown in comparison with those of November, 1924, as follows:

	<u>1924</u>	<u>1925</u>
Total current generated in KW hours	48,890	49,530.0
Of this, sold to public utilities at 5¢ per KWH	3,703.5	862.9
Street lighting	2,082.	2,955.0
Balance, consumed for power and lighting in Government buildings, and lost on lines in transit	43,104.5	45,712.1
Peak load during month in KWH	102	104
(occurred at 6 p.m. Nov. 20, 22, 23 and 24, 1925; occurred on Nov. 1, 11 and 14th, 1924.)		

The Telephone and Switchboard Office was open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. The total business handled was as follows:

	<u>1924</u>	<u>1925</u>
On Government local lines.....	4,248	4234
On Hotel Company lines.....	634	464
Long Distance Connections.....	177	185
	<u>5,059</u>	<u>4883</u>

Water and Sewer Systems

General repair work in the upkeep of the water and sewer system at headquarters was maintained; three laundry traps and sinks were installed in living quarters; snake pipes were repaired; and three new chimneys were added to living quarters.

Machinery and Equipment

The Master Mechanic and his helpers overhauled two trucks and made repairs on freight trucks. The blacksmith overhauled 3 road graders, twelve slip scrapers, three road drags, and did horseshoeing.

Painting Department

The following work was done by the Painting Department during the month: Glesed storm sash, salvaged glass from old greenhouse; completely repainted kitchen in D. T. White's quarters and did some work in Edwin's and Hilton's quarters; painted signs for the Hoppe Ranch.

IV. CONSTRUCTION OF IMPROVEMENTS

Road Projects

Construction work on the Lake Shore Road was discontinued November 7th because of unfavorable weather conditions. Two thousand four hundred and fifty-five linear feet of the concrete revetment wall at Bridge Bay is completed, which is 84% of the total concrete work.

The clearing and grubbing is finished, but about 2-1/2 miles of stumps and slashings remain to be burned in the spring. About 1000 feet of the fill across Bridge Bay, requiring 1936 cubic yards of material is unfinished. The contracted section is 70% finished; three miles of light work remain.

The contractor on the Inspiration Point road quit work Nov. 10th after finishing the clearing which amounted to 6.65 acres. No excavating has been done on this job.

V. PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Patrols

Chief Ranger Goodring was absent from the park on official and personal business from the 1st to the 17th of the month; he has since made several trips into the Northern Supervisory Territory and has been otherwise engaged in directing the activities of the Ranger Department.

Assistants Chief Ranger Trischman, Douglas and Liek have been engaged throughout the month in directing and assisting with the regular and special patrols of their respective districts and in securing inventories of government property at the various ranger stations and snowshoe cabins. All rangers have been generally employed at regular and

special patrols, predatory animal hunting and routine station duties; and their principal duties at this season consist of wild animal patrols and predatory animal hunting.

General Condition of Wild Animals

Wild animal conditions are unusually good, forage is plentiful, snow depths are moderate and temperatures are mild.

Elk: The elk movements from the higher elevations were generally concluded by the 20th of the month. The main bands are now concentrated on the Lamar River meadows and along the Yellowstone River from Tower Falls to Blacktail Deer Creek; considerable numbers have assembled on the slopes of Mounts Everts and Sepulchre and the Gallatin herd had moved down to the Game Preserve. The more important counts recently submitted are as follows: Lamar River District 1835, Hellroaring District 1379, Tower Falls District 1970, Blacktail District 400, Slough Creek District 305, Mammoth-Gardiner District, including the Mt. Everts and Sepulchre 900, and Gallatin District, including the Gallatin Game Preserve 1729. Numerous small bands are reported in the upper park, particularly along the Madison, Firehole and Gibbon Rivers which brings the total count at this time to 9597. This is probably not more than half of the total number, as satisfactory counts are never secured until late in April - in fact this is the best fall season count in recent years.

The reported kills by hunters at points adjacent to the park this season to date are indicated as follows: Cody Road 90, Upper Yellowstone District 22, Riverside District 16, Gallatin District 146, Upper Slough Creek District 5, Hellroaring District 3, Gardiner District 30, total 312, as compared with 253 to November 30th last year.

Other reported losses this season consist of 3 calves accidentally drowned in Slough Creek as a result of breaking through the ice.

Deer: Deer counts this season to date are submitted as follows: Soda Butte District 64, Golden Gate to Norris along highway 4, North slope of Sepulchre Mountain along park boundary 50, north slope of Mt. Everts 15, Pebble Creek District 16, Hellroaring District 118, Grayling District 2, Excelsior Geyser to Old Faithful along Firehole River 25, Gallatin District 16, Lower Slough Creek District 10, Tower Falls District 62 and Mammoth District 96, total 480.

The reported kills by hunters at points adjacent to the park are indicated as follows: Upper Yellowstone District 2, Crevice District 10, Riverside District 1, Gallatin District 26, Gardiner District 28, total 67, as compared with 56 last year.

Sheep: The sheep counts this season to date are as follows: Mt. Morris and Mt. Thunderer 45, Pilot Peaks, outside the park, Wyoming 18, Sheep Mountain, outside the park, Montana 22, Junction Butte 30, Mt. Everts 35, Amethyst Mountain 41, Hellroaring 10, Lower Slough Creek 16, total 217. The reported losses occasioned by hunters at points adjacent to the park were 3, as compared with 5 during the hunting season of last year. The reported kills this season occurred in the Thorefare District.

Antelope: Full counts of the antelope herd have not been had this season to date but the counts thus far submitted are as follows: Tower Falls District 98, North slope of Mt. Everts 112, North slope of Sepulchre Mountain 287, total 497. No losses have been reported thus far.

Moose: On recent trips to the Upper Park the Superintendent, on Oct. 10, observed 3 moose at Morris Basin consisting of 1 bull, 1 cow and 1 calf. On November 5th I observed a bull moose just beyond Golden Gate. The moose counts submitted by rangers this season to date are as follows: Grayling Creek 8, Sylvan Pass District 5, Bechler River District 3, Tower Falls District 3, Hellroaring District 8, Gallatin District 7, Snake River District 3, Upper Lamar River District 2, Upper Yellowstone District 17, Upper Slough Creek District 23, total 83. Moose signs are abundant in the Northern and Western Supervisory Territories and in addition to the counts herein submitted there is estimated to be 40 moose at the head of Hellroaring and 42 in the Grayling District. Three bulls have died from natural causes this season to date, one at Blacktail, one at Snake River and one on the Upper Yellowstone.

Bear: Reports on bear indicate that 8 have been killed by hunters at points adjacent to the park this season consisting of 4 in the Thorefare District and 4 in the Gallatin District as compared with a total of 5 last year. All bears killed this season were of the black and brown variety.

Buffalo: A count of 28 was recently submitted from the Pelican Creek District; this is the only count submitted on the Cold Creek-Pelican Plate Herd this season to date.

Shipments were made from the Lamar River Herd during the month as follows:

	Number	Sex	Age	Date Shipped
Mr. George E. Dryden, Kerrville, Texas	2	1 male 1 female	2 yrs.	Nov. 29th, 1925
Allyn Cole, Lamar, Colo.	1	male	2 yrs.	Nov. 29th, 1925
F.E. Wadsworth, Cajon, Calif.	2	1 cow 1 bull	year- lings	Nov. 20th, 1925
George G. Anderson Visalia, Calif.	1	female	4 yrs.	Nov. 20th, 1925
Victor S. Himsel, Plevna, Mont.	1	steer	8 yrs.	Nov. 15th, 1925

The total number shipped was 7, consisting of 3 bulls and 3 cows and 1 steer, the latter being slaughtered and sold for market purposes. Five cows and three bulls were shipped last month, making a total this season to date of 15, consisting of 8 cows, 6 bulls and 1 steer. One bull was slaughtered early this fall at the Buffalo Corral, Mammoth, on account of his being fatally injured in an encounter with another bull; total deductions from the Lamar River Herd this season 16. The herd total at this time is 748.

Predatory Animals

No mountain lion or wolf signs were observed during the month. Coyotes were commonly seen, particularly in the Northern District of the park, and a total of 70 have been killed since October 31st. Sixty-four were killed prior to November 1st, making a total this season to date of 134 as compared with 87 to November 30th last year, and 53 to November 30th, 1923.

Small Animals

There were no reports of interest on beaver, otter, marten and other small animals during the month.

Water Fowl

Ducks and geese are numerous on the Madison, Gibbon and Yellowstone Rivers.

Buffalo and Other Ranch Operations

There is nothing to be specially noted in connection with the buffalo and hay ranch operations during the month.

Arrests & Violations of Law

There were no arrests in the park during the month but two arrests were made on the Gallatin Game Preserve by Deputy Game Wardens Peasley and McLaughlin at a point near the Mike Pollack ranch on the 29th. The names of the persons arrested were Earl A. Lafoon of Bozeman, Mont., and Harry Harper of Comanche, Mont.; they were arraigned at Livingston, Mont., and entered pleas of guilty and were fined \$25 each and costs. The two elk carcasses in their possession were confiscated together with a gun belonging to defendant Harper. A mitigating circumstance in their favor was the fact that the Game Preserve line was poorly marked.

Special Incidents

On Sunday, November 1st, 4 tame deer from the Mammoth herd were reported slain in the town of Gardiner, Mont.; they moved down along the highway to the North Entrance and passed out into the streets of the town. One of this number was a fine big buck that had been a fall, winter and spring season attraction at headquarters for several years. He was a universal pet and favorite, and one of the finest specimens of mule deer in the park. He had been photographed thousands of times by park visitors. He was reported to have proceeded fearlessly down the main street of the town, being followed by a score or more of rifles until he reached a point near the Northern Pacific Depot where the killing occurred. Thirty shots are said to have been fired at this magnificent animal regardless of the fact that he made no attempt to escape. The others were reported to have been killed under like circumstances. Other killings have occurred since that date. Twenty-eight are known to have been killed in the Gardiner district this season. The residents of Yellowstone Park considered this an outrage and through the medium of the Yellowstone Park chapter, Izask Walton League of America, expressed their indignation and disgust.

Arthur Hall, D. H. Hauptman and Robert Young of Gardiner joined in this movement and cooperated with the local chapter of the league in submitting petitions to the Montana State Fish and Game Commission requesting that the town of Gardiner and other lands formerly included in the Galletin Game Preserve be restored to the preserve. The petitions further included, on request of citizens of Gardiner, certain lands lying north and east of the Yellowstone River as a measure of protection to human life in the town of Gardiner and along the highway between Gardiner and Jardine, Mont., some additional lands were also included in this area as a measure of protection for the elk herds where they emerge in large bands from the park. This area has been a danger zone for years on account of its close proximity to the Gardiner town site and the public highway.

A public hearing was held on these petitions at Gardiner on the 27th; Commissioners E. A. Wilson and Robert H. Hill presiding, and witnesses for and against the proposals were heard. The Superintendent of the Jardine Mining Company, Robert Young of Gardiner and Julius L. Greer of Yellowstone Park appeared in support of the petitioners. Mr. Greer represented the Yellowstone Park Chapter of the Izask Walton League of America. Mr. Albright also appeared in support of the petitioners and read a brief which was afterwards filed with the Commission after having first announced that he was acting solely in an individual capacity and was representing only himself.

The opposition was under the leadership of Dr. J. M. Wolfe and a paid attorney and consisted of farmers and certain residents of Gardiner. The former protest was to the effect that a game preserve

status imposed burdensome restrictions on the use and enjoyment of their property. The opposition from the town of Gardiner was to the effect that restrictions on hunting curtailed the business of all who were catering to the needs of the hunter. The opposition generally disregarded all considerations of personal safety for local residents and was apparently indifferent to the recent killing of domestic deer from Yellowstone Park in the town of Gardiner. The matter will be further considered at the next regular meeting of the Commission and a full report of their findings will be submitted in due course.

VI. MUSEUM, NATURE GUIDE WORK, EDUCATIONAL WORK

The Park Naturalist returned on November 11 from leave of absence in the East where he conferred with Mr. J. E. Haynes in St. Paul regarding matters pertaining to the museum, its collections and their care.

A number of color drawings of animals and birds of Yellowstone Park have been completed by the Park Naturalist and have been forwarded to Mr. Haynes, who will make photographic copies of them for use in Yellowstone Park publicity next season.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

Medical Service

During the month of November Dr. Strickland reports 41 professional calls and 37 office calls.

Post Office

Nothing unusual to report.

Religious Services

Episcopal services were held by Rev. Wm. Friend Day Sunday morning November 1; Sunday evening November 15, and Sunday morning Nov. 30.

English Lutheran services were held by Rev. Geo. C. Koehler, on Thursday evening, November 12.

Congregational services were held on Sunday evening, Nov. 22, by Rev. S. R. McCarthy, from Livingston, Mont. These services were held in the Lodge Room in the amusement hall at Park Headquarters. Rev. Day's service of Nov. 29th was his last official service here, as he announced that he had been called to another field - at Bozeman, Mont., effective December 1st. His successor to this field has not yet been announced.

Cordially yours, LEROY HILL

The Director, N.P.S.;
Washington, D.C.
AEM

Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Yellowstone National Park
Yellowstone Park, Wyoming.

November 24, 1925.

CIRCULAR NO. 16.

Transfer of property, serviceable or unserviceable, from one department to another, or from one person to another in the case of household property, is absolutely prohibited, except when such property is cleared through the storehouse by proper requisition.

Any department head, or other employee, wishing to transfer property, or have unserviceable property condemned, must take up the matter with the storehouse, and have the proper papers made out effecting the transfer, in the case of usable property, or disposing of property to be condemned. In no other way can property responsibility be relieved.

Persons failing to comply with this order in every particular will be charged on the payrolls with the value of all property improperly transferred or otherwise disposed of.

The storehouse is the clearing house for all property and do not give or take property except through the storehouse.

HORACE H. ALBRIGHT
Superintendent

HMA/jj

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